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United States
Department of
Agriculture
Food and
Nutrition Service

The Friday Letter

Vol. 10 No. 12

June 23, 1989

On the Hill



Markup of H.R. 24

On June 20, the Subcommittee on Elementary, Secondary, and Vocational Education, House Committee on Education and Labor, marked up H.R. 24, "The Child Nutrition and WIC Amendments of 1989."

Among its many provisions, the bill extends expiring Child Nutrition Programs through FY 1995 and increases authorization of funding for WIC for FY 90 to \$2.158 billion. The bill also authorizes \$5 million for startup grants for the School Breakfast Program and up to \$4 million for a Food Service Management Institute.

There are several provisions for the National School Lunch Program, including a unified Federal-state review system to ensure compliance with the National School Lunch Act, new training and technical assistance, a requirement to publish "Dietary Guidance for Child Nutrition Programs" to be jointly developed with DHHS, and extensive paperwork reduction.

The WIC Program provisions include detailed ways to allocate funds, permission to use advance funds in certain cases, paperwork reduction, and eligibility for certain incarcerated persons to receive WIC benefits.

-Story by Robert Beard
Governmental Affairs Staff

Information Director Chosen as Recipient of Unsung Hero Award

"Congratulations!" the letter read. "You have been selected as an 'Unsung Hero.'" These are the words Public Information Director John Webster read informing him of being chosen as one of six "Unsung Hero" award recipients from USDA.



John Webster (left) receives "Unsung Hero" award from Royal Oyster, FSIS, who made the presentation as a representative of the USDA/Public Employees Roundtable.

Sponsored by the Organization of Professional Employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the USDA Welfare and Recreation Association, and the USDA Chapter of the Senior Executives Association, among others, the awards are to honor those persons who epitomize the best in public service by their quiet dedication to the public good.

Nominated by his secretary, Webster was cited for his diligence and dedication to the fight against illegal drugs in

(Award Continued Next Page)

Take the T-shirt off our back --
see page 9!

The Only Good Payment Error is the One that's Prevented Before it Happens

An improvement of just 1 percent in the food stamp payment error rates would save \$6 million annually in only 15 urban areas in MARO.

With that thought in mind, a recent MARO payment accuracy seminar was held with Federal, state, and local food stamp agency officials who talked about why error rates go up and down and what they're doing to reduce the amount of funds being spent incorrectly.

MARO Administrator Chris Martin said a high-quality local operation raises the integrity of the program, overall, which in turn assures the public that the program is serving those who truly need it.

Abigail Nichols, Program Accountability Division director, spoke about Congress' renewed interest in quality food stamp service.

Dr. Silvia Jackson of the Wisconsin Department of Community Services told conferees that Milwaukee, the state's largest urban center, has a very strong front-end verification system. Employing private detectives to investigate prior to enrollment has resulted in application denials, case closures, food stamp reductions, grant reductions, and fraud referral.



Jim Goodale, MARO Program Evaluation Section chief, explains how a new database, written in dBase III PLUS by his staff, will organize food stamp payment reduction ideas into a useful tool for state and local agency staff.

At the end of the conference, members of the MARO Payment Accuracy Team (Ma Pat) were presented awards for their efforts to find practical ways to reduce errors. The group of six pulls together ideas from around the country and reports on them in the "Ma Pat Reports" newsletter, which is distributed throughout the regions.

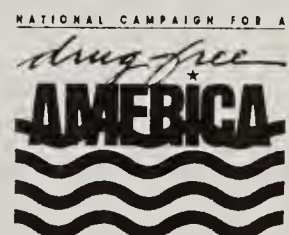
-Story and photo by Marian Wig
MARO Public Affairs Staff

(Award Continued)

this country. Among the achievements mentioned in the nomination were his involvement with the USDA "Just Say No" to drugs efforts, the National Campaign for a Drug Free America, and the American School Food Service Association's shared venture with FNS on a nationwide poster and essay contest which was launched last summer.

In concert with the observance of Public Service Recognition Week, the

award was presented May 5 at the Administration Building. Deputy Secretary Jack C. Parnell and Assistant Secretary for Administration John J. Franke commended the six USDA "Unsung Heroes."



-Story by Public Information Staff

Mother Superior Retires

Irene Lankford, confidential assistant to the associate administrator, recently retired from her FNS career which began in August 1972. She remained with the agency until April 1989 except for a short employment with the Navy Department. Prior to this, Irene was a nun with the Divine Providence Order for 25 years.

She said she was very touched by all that was done for her at her retirement reception and for so many of her friends coming to wish her well. "I have no way of personally thanking everyone for their generosity. It was very, very moving," Irene said.

Irene and her husband will be travelling more extensively now that her life doesn't revolve around FNS time. No more long commutes from southern Maryland on Route 4 for this lady.

Truly excited about this new segment of her life, as always, she'll have a ball exploring and absorbing all she possibly can.



Acting Administrator Scott Dunn presents a retirement certificate to Irene Lankford.

-Story by Mary Kennedy
Photo by Pam Faith
Public Information Staff

Secretarial Training Program Concludes

Gene P. Dickey, former acting associate administrator, and Lynn Edwards, deputy director of the USDA Graduate School, recently presented 17 FNS employees with Graduate School certificates for participating in the Secretarial Excellence Program. Park Center was the site for the well-attended ceremony.

Receiving certificates were: Mary B. Travis, OA; Carolyn T. Adams, Darlene Bryant, Janice Howerton, Toni C. Miller, and Mary S. Wallace, DAM; Beverly Chappelle, FM; Patricia J. Cooper and Carmen Z. Todd, OAE; Andrew S. Fitzgerald and Tearnee M. Stringfellow, OGAPI; Robin S. Gregory, ORO; Bette A. Barden and Lisa A. Pittman, FSP; and Joyce K. W. Dunham, Jana M. Thornley, and DaJaun Wright, SNP.

The Secretarial Excellence Program was developed by FNS in cooperation with the Graduate School, which coordinated the three-phased program. Candidates took

part in a professionalism seminar and series of proficiency surveys for the first phase. The Graduate School administered and scored the surveys and prepared confidential reports for each candidate, recommending refresher classes as warranted. Sixteen classes were offered in the second phase, such as essentials of English, proofreading, editing, and effective writing. In the final phase of the program, candidates participated in day-long workshops in time management, problem solving and decisionmaking, creativity, effective listening, and assertiveness.

The Graduate School, in conjunction with the USDA Office of Personnel, offers generic secretarial/office skills courses for the entry-level to the executive-level secretary.

-Story by Judith Lombard
Personnel Division

(MPRO Continued)

Eighteen new employees--from MPRO and new Federal Review System (FRS) staffers in field offices--recently attended a 2-day orientation session in the Denver office. The session was tied to special training for FRS employees prior to their biregional meeting.

New staffers received a broad overview of all FNS program and staff functions. Following an opening coffee-and-doughnuts get-together, they were welcomed by Regional Administrator David Alspach and Deputy Regional Administrator Forrest Moore, who discussed the agency's history and mission.



New MPRO employees Heather Strapp (left) and Brenda Komloske get acquainted with Penney Trujillo of personnel prior to the orientation session.

Program directors and key staffers made presentations on program highlights, EEO and civil rights, the probationary period and appointments, public affairs, nutrition services and NET, the National Treasury Employees Union, merit promotion, awards, training opportunities, classification, financial management functions, employee conduct, field offices, safety/injury reporting, travel, and employee benefits.

-Story and photos by Joanne Widner
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

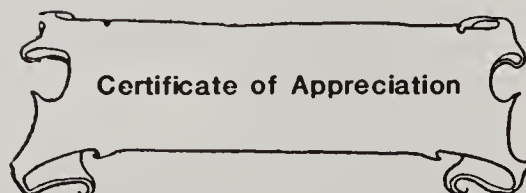
Appreciation Extended to IRMD Employee

George L. Thomas of the Information Resources and Management Division (IRMD) was presented a certificate of appreciation from the Nutrition and Technical Services Division (NTSD). Thomas was honored for his professionalism and exemplary service to the National Commodity Processing (NCP) Program as programmer/analyst for the Management Information System. He has made a major contribution to the quality of service for the NCP Program and its private sector clients.

NTSD Director Joseph E. Shepherd presented the award on behalf of the NTSD staff. Left to right are George C. Rogers, NTSD branch chief; Joseph E. Shepherd, NTSD director; George L. Thomas, IRMD honoree; Carol S. Naughton, IRMD director; and Chuck Cash, IRMD branch chief.



-Story by Ron Johnson
NTS Division
Photo by Pam Faith
Public Information Staff



NERO Administrator Tours New York CSFP "Supermarkets"



Harold McLean, NERO administrator, and Christine Reimann, Catholic Charities Commodity supplemental Food Program (CSFP) director, discuss recent increases in caseload at Catholic Charities' four distribution sites on Long Island, New York.

New York State's CSFP, known as FAN (Food and Nutrition), though less than a year old, has built up its caseload to 2,440 participants and continues aggressive outreach efforts. McLean recently visited three of the four distribution sites and is seen here at one of the CSFP "supermarkets."

"I was really impressed with the 'supermarket' approach to distributing CSFP foods," McLean observed.

"Participants are given a list of prescribed foods and then, with a shopping cart, make their own food selections. The atmosphere at all three sites was pleasant and everything was service-oriented. There were even play areas for children. It's obvious that participants felt good about going to a site and picking up food. That's great."

-Story and photo by NERO
Public Affairs Staff

Two Executives Honored at SWRO

Ronald K. Rhodes, assistant SWRO administrator, and Judith K. Snow, SWRO public affairs director, were recently honored by the Dallas/Fort Worth Federal Executive Board at its annual awards ceremony. Rhodes was cited for outstanding cost-effectiveness accomplishments and Snow for distinguished Government service.



-Photo by Kay Blakely
SWRO Public Affairs Staff

MPRO Conducts New Employee Orientation Session



MPRO Administrator David Alspach chats with new employees (including new management analyst Karen Knoll at right) prior to the orientation session.

(MPRO Continued Next Page)

Federal Public Service Recognition Week is Commemorated at MWRO

The Chicago Federal Executive Board's Public Affairs Council and MWRO Public Affairs Staff planned and organized several interagency activities during the recent Public Service Recognition Week to celebrate the skills and contributions of Federal workers.

One highlight was a 3-day Federal Agency Information Fair. Twenty-three booths and displays at Chicago's Federal Plaza informed the public of the range and quality of vital services provided by Federal employees. The information fair was an opportunity for agencies to "show off" what they do and the employees on the job. The fair was well attended and generated interest in Federal services.



Food Stamp Program Administrator Dustan Van Vleet had an opportunity to answer questions about the Food Stamp Program at the FNS booth.



From left to right are MWRO Administrator Monroe Woods, Railroad Retirement Board Chief Executive Director Ken Boehne, Illinois Special Assistant to the Governor for Ethnic Affairs Leo Kazaniwskyj, General Services Administration Regional Administrator Alan Drazek, and U.S. Coast Guard Commander Captain James Umberger prepare for the ceremony to kick off the Public Service Recognition Week activities. Kazaniwskyj presented a certificate proclaiming the week.



The Fort Sheridan Army Color Guard posted the colors for the ceremony.

-Story and photos by
Mary Jane Getlinger
MWRO Public Affairs Staff

20th Anniversary Photo Trivia



Do you remember
the mini-skirt
era at FNS?



Who's the
thorn between
two roses?



Would you buy
a used car
from these guys?

Poker in my room--10 p.m.



The birth of the FNS salute.

I didn't know
Charlie Daniels
worked for FNS.



Notice to:

Regional Offices - Regional Field Offices - Compliance Branch
Administrative Review - Minneapolis Computer Center
Retirees and former employees - Any and all procrastinators

There's still time to order your
Official FNS 20th Anniversary

T-Shirt

Accept no substitutes



Q.:
What's
wrong
with this
picture?



A: He's
not
wearing
an FNS
T-Shirt.

1. If you work in an FNS field office and report to a regional office, please send your T-Shirt order to the regional public information director.
2. If you work in the Compliance Branch, Administrative Review Division, or the Minneapolis Computer Center, please send your T-Shirt order to:

Vernon Morgan
Director, Office of Regional Operations
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 806
Alexandria, VA 22302

3. If you are retired from FNS or are a former employee, please send your order to Mr. Morgan at the address above.

Please make every effort to get your check to either the regional office or to Mr. Morgan by July 5. No orders will be taken after July 7. Please send checks only (no cash). Checks should be made payable to: FNS 20th Anniversary. If all goes as planned, we expect the T-Shirts to be shipped by late July.

The shirts are white, 100 percent cotton, pre-shrunk, cut large. Men's sizes: Small (34-36), Medium (38-40), Large (42-44), and Extra-Large (46-48). \$10 for one, \$19 for two. Order now to be sure you get the number and sizes you want. To order, fill out both halves of the form below. Send in the top half to the office indicated and keep the bottom for your receipt. Please fill out both halves of the form completely.

Turn in this copy

Name and Division _____

Work phone: Area code _____ Number _____

Office address: _____

Number of shirts in each size: Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ Extra large _____

Total number of shirts _____ Price _____ Make checks payable to FNS 20th Anniversary

Keep this copy as your receipt

Name and Division _____

Number of shirts in each size: Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ Extra Large _____

Total number of shirts _____ Price _____

Job Opportunities

FNS is seeking to fill the vacant positions listed below. To be considered for one of them, submit an up-to-date SF-171, Application for Federal Employment, and current performance appraisal to the appropriate personnel office. If you are interested in a headquarters position, apply to the Operations Branch, Personnel Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Alexandria, Virginia

22302. Apply directly to headquarters office for all GS-14 and 15 positions. For regional positions, apply directly to the regional office. For details on the requirements for any of the positions listed below, consult the official vacancy announcement. These are posted on designated bulletin boards or copies can be obtained from the appropriate regional or headquarters personnel office.

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing By Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Economist	(A)	GS-0110	12/13	07/10/89	89-127	HNIS
o Comp. Prog. Analyst (FNS-N)		GS-334	13	07/17/89	89-129	IRMD
o Personnel Officer	(G)	GS-0201	12	07/24/89	89-130	NERO
o Food Program Spec. (FNS-HQ)		GS-0120	5-11	07/10/89	89-131	CND

Office Location

HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service
IRMD - Information Resource Mgmt. Div.
CND - Child Nutrition Division
NERO - Northeast Regional Office

Area of Consideration

(A) - All Sources
(G) - Government-Wide
(FNS-N) - Food and Nutrition Service (Nationwide)
(FNS-HQ) - Food and Nutrition Service (Headquarters)

Mary E. Kennedy, Editor

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